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THE WORLD'S GREATEST 2099 COMIC MAGAZINE!
Fantastic 4
2099
DIRECT EDITION
00311
$1.95 US/$2.75 CAN

A Stan Lee presentation

TRAPPED IN 2099, THE F.F. FIND THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES...

DIFFICULT TO RECALL

REED'S ALIVE... HARD TO TELL WITH BEN...
I'M WARNING YOU PEOPLE RIGHT NOW-- ANYTHING HAPPENS TO MY FAMILY, YOU'LL NEVER SEE WHAT HITS YOU!

KARL KESEL - WRITER • AL WILLIAMSON - INKER
PAUL BECTON - COLORIST • JANICE CHIANG - LETTERER
JOEY CAVALIERI - EDITOR and BOBBIE CHASE - CHIEF
ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE THIS BOOK'S FANTASTIC NEW PENCILER - MATT RYAN!

MUCH OWED TO THE WORKS OF STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY.

FANTASTIC FOUR 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 3, March, 1996. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.75 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $23.40 U.S.; $35.40 foreign and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. FANTASTIC FOUR 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO FANTASTIC FOUR 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. PRINTED IN USA.
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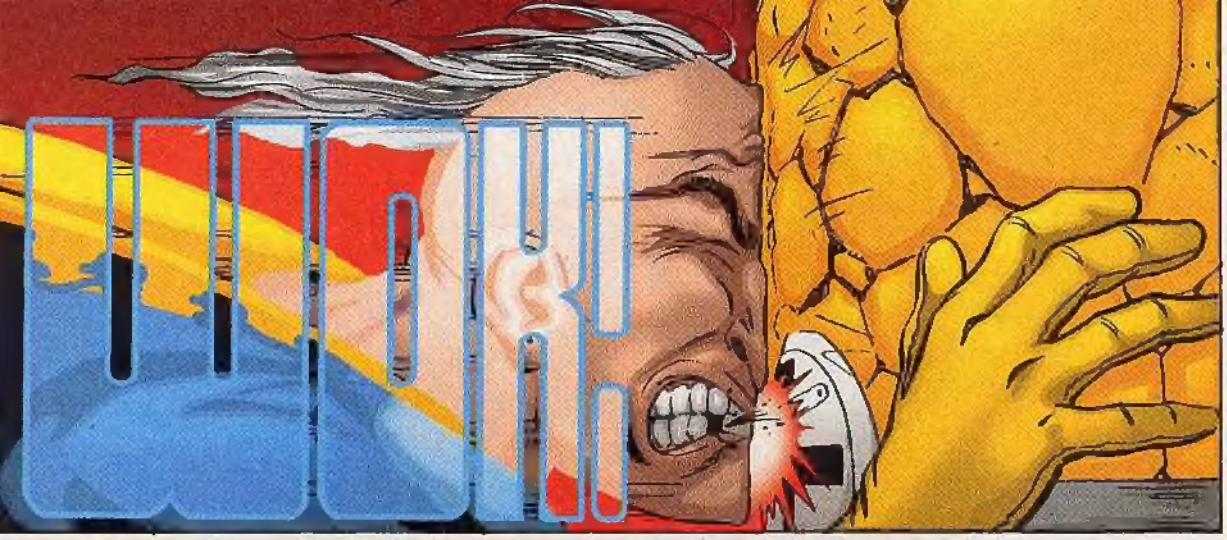
HOW APPROPRIATE COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO CALLS HERSELF THE INVISIBLE WOMAN!
BUT MY GROUP IS HARDLY A CADRE OF CASUAL KILLERS!
NO--TOTAL RECALL IS 2099'S PREMIER RETRIEVAL AGENCY.
WE'RE REPO-MEN!
AND YOU FOUR ARE PROPERTY OF STARK-FUJIKAWA, SO WE'RE TAKING YOU BACK!
UNBOWED, BROKEN, OR IN A BOX--UP TO YOU!
BY THE GODS--STOP! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THESE RUINS YOU CREATED WERE RECENTLY A CHURCH OF THOR?
IT IS STILL HALLOWED GROUND, HOWEVER--AND WITHIN MY POWER TO GRANT THESE PEOPLE SANCTUARY AS PROPHETS OF OUR THUNDER GOD!
THEY'VE GOT OTHER PROFITS IN MIND, PILGRIM! STAND BACK, AND I'LL--
TLIK!
WHAT--? MY GUN'S EMPTY? BUT--

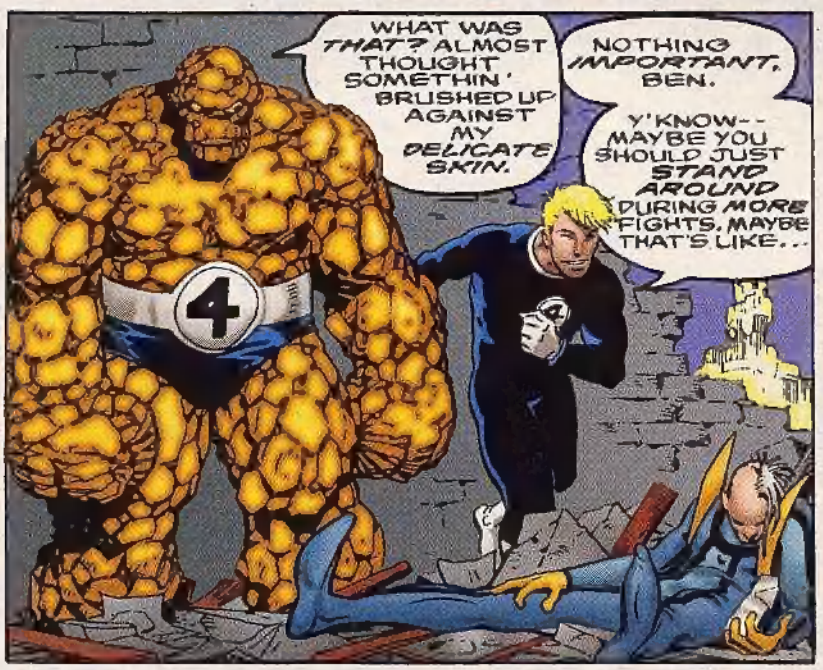
RUNAWAY-- DID YOU...?
COULDN'T HELP MYSELF, BLACKSTONE!
DID A LITTLE SUPER-SPEED UNLOADING WHEN YOU TELEPORTALED THEM IN!
NO BIG GLITCH-- HIPSHOT'S GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH AMMO TO GO AROUND!
CHOOM! CHOOM! CHOOM! CHOOM! CHOOM!
BUT THE TRICK IS GETTING THOSE BULLETS THROUGH MY FORCE-FIELD!
PANK!
PENK!
POK!
POK!
PENK!
NO, MY DEAR-- THAT'S MY TRICK!
AND I'LL GIVE YOU MUCH MORE TO WORRY ABOUT THAN A FEW STRAY SHOTS!
ALL I NEED IS ONE SHOT, BLACKSTONE!
BETTER KEEP UP WITH ME, SQUEEZE-- OR YOU WON'T EVEN GET THAT!

HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU--BUT WE'RE NOT GOING DOWN THAT EASY!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, SIS!
JOHNNY! CHIMERA!
TLONK!
NRG!
FLAME ON!
WOO! WOO! WOO!
LOOKS LIKE THINGS'RE GETTING HOT!
TIME FOR A LITTLE RUN-AROUND!
CAN'T EXIST IN A VACUUM, YOU KNOW!
uhh--! S-SIS...
NOT FIRE--AND DEFINITELY NOT YOU!
JOHNNY!
HANG ON, I'M--
YOU GOT TROUBLES OF YOUR OWN, "SIS!"
YOU'RE IN A REAL TIGHT SQUEEZE--AND IT'S JUST GONNA GET TIGHTER!
MGH!

HFF!
HFF!
YOU GLITCHED, GIRL! THAT'S MY GUN--EMPTY, REMEMBER?
SHOULD'VE SPRINTED FOR ONE OF THE SHOOTERS YOU DROPPED BEFORE!
GUESS THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY THE QUICK AND THE DEAD. I WAS QUICK, AND NOW--
--I'M DEAD!
kt! kt! kt! kt! kt!
V-CHOOM! V-CHOOM! V-CHOOM!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
HOLD ON, CHIMERA!
REED!?!
MY GUN--?!?
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

IT'S VERY REAL, CHIMERA--BUT WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE... FOR A WHILE.
UNFORTUNATELY, HIPSHOT NEVER RUNS OUT OF AMMUNITION!
I WILL NOT CRINGE FROM BATTLE... I WILL HOLD MY HAMMER HIGH AND SMITE MY FOES...
Chow!
Krif!
SHE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO CREATE... PSIONIC BULLETS FOR ANY WEAPON SHE HOLDS!
LUCKILY, I RECOVERED IN TIME TO--
--RESCUE ME! TO SHOW YOU REALLY CARE!
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! I'M...
"--BREATHLESS!"
LACK OF OXYGEN MAKING EVERYTHING SPIN?
GO IN CIRCLES?
OR IS IT JUST M--
EEEE!
KUNK!
R-RUNAWAY...?
KHEK!
GO AWAY!


WHOK!


WHAT WAS THAT? ALMOST THOUGHT SOMETHIN' BRUSHED UP AGAINST MY DELICATE SKIN.
NOTHING IMPORTANT, BEN.
Y'KNOW-- MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST STAND AROUND DURING MORE FIGHTS, MAYBE THAT'S LIKE...

"...YOUR REAL CALLING!"
I HEAR YOU, LORD OF THUNDER, I SEE THE TASK BEFORE ME.
YOU HAVE DELIVERED YOUR PROPHETS TO ME...

...I WILL LET NO HARM BEFALL THEM!
RUN, MR. RICHARDS! I'LL HANDLE THIS ENCHANTRESS!
NO, PILGRIM WILSON, SHE--

V-CHOOM!
V-CHOOM!
V-CHOOM!
V-CHO
V-CHOOM
OM!
HOOM!
HOOM!

GOOD LORD!
YOU WANT HEAT, LADY? I'LL SHOW YOU REAL HEAT!
FRSSHZ
BACK OFF, YOU PRINCESS PYTHON POSER!
REED! IS THE PRIEST--
RGF!
--ALIVE, BUT BARELY!
WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL-- A DOCTOR AT LEAST-- NOW!
REED-- THERE'S A DOCS-IN-THE BOX... MAYBE TEN BLOCKS THAT WAY!
KER-RICH!
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADIN'!
AN' I FEEL SORRY FOR ANY BUILDIN'S THAT GET IN MY WAY!
THAT PILGRIM'S HURT.
STAY BACK.
IT'S THEM.
BAD AS THEY SAY.
FLAME CREATURE.
THEY'LL KILL YOU.
HORRIBLE MONSTER.

2099 Bitmapped

Yeah, yeah. We read all your snail mail and e-mail that says, "What's with you guys? Don't you have any calendars? You've been workin' this 2099 thing for a long time now, hey? After all, it was the Day of the Dead issues ago! Isn't it time for the Christmas story?"

Har har hardy har har. Well, in response, we'll just say that it's a New Year, and brother, we mean a new year. Meaning what exactly? Um, well, look, don't expect us to make any big changes right away. I mean, even though you're reading this in January, it'll take us till about summertime to stop writing 2099 on all our checks. If you catch my meaning. If you get my drift...

One Nation Under X

The most eagerly-awaited project (by US, anyway) finally hits the stands this month! It's X-NATION 2099 #1, by Tom Peyer, Humberto Ramos and Jimmy Palmiotti. In every single way, this is the book of the year, and that year is only just beginning! The color is downright arresting, the characters are fresh and practically bounce off the page at you, and the story kicks off an important new milestone in our future timeline, and the timeline of all of Marveldom!

So, join Uproar, Clarion, December, Twilight, Willow, Nostromo, Wulff and the rest of the gang at the Xavier Shelter for Indigent Children in Beautiful Downtown Halo City. Your hosts are Cerebra and Morphine Somers (you know them, from X-MEN 2099, don'tcha?). Read it...'cause Sister Nick might be giving a pop quiz, and you don't wanna be unprepared in her class!

Four Score

If you haven't latched on to our futuristic and fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR 2099, this is the month to do it! The book welcomes the proud premiere of our prime new penciller, Matt Ryan! You know his ink work on WOLVERINE and several other X-titles! Now look at his mighty monthly debut as pencil artiste extraordinaire! And with Al Williamson's inks, the results are astounding! Did we mention that Karl Kesel's plots and scripting are the sharpest, slyest and wittiest work of his career? No? Good, because you know how we hate to brag! Karl's stuff is planting the seeds now for some wild stuff to come from us in the near future. So catch this issue and see some of the broad hints we're dropping about how things will soon turn out! You'll thank us later!

The Dawn Of Lilith

Warren and Nikki have added a brand new member to their brand new household...their daughter, Lilith! What a hip name, huh? A name that resonates with poetry and mystery and just a touch of the romantic (forgive us for waxing eloquent, but Joey forgot to get any solid details, like the kid's weight at birth. "Why do people wanna know that stuff anyway?" asks our cranky editor. "It's a baby, not a satarn!").

Doom Is Our Only Business

Have you checked out the price of strained peas lately? Have you checked out Warren's work on DOOM 2099 #30? It's his farewell to the character before X-NATION's Tom Peyer takes the baton and runs with it. Could we be any less subtle?

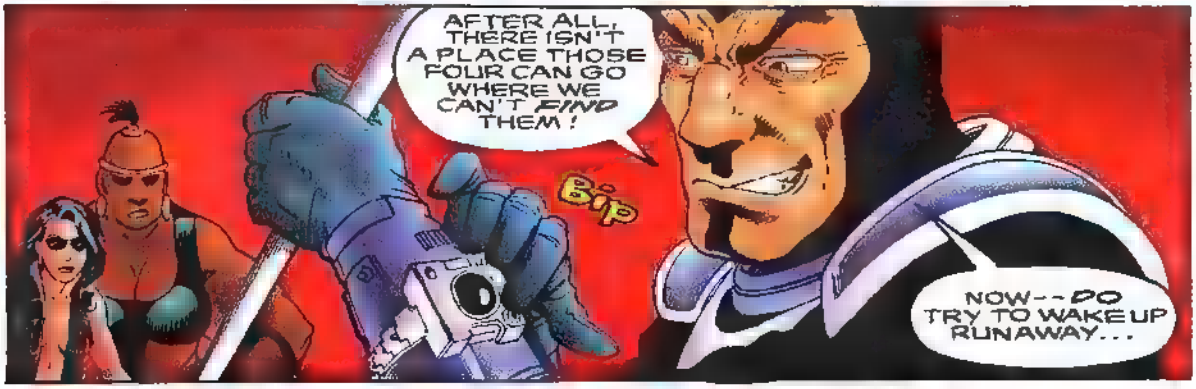
Also In 2099 This Month

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #41: Tyler Stone vs. Miguel for the control of Alchemax! Also, no shortage of tears at Dana's funeral!

GHOST RIDER 2099 #23: It's insane! What's insane? The entire town of Transverse City! Everybody's gone nuts, and there's nothing between them and total chaos except...the Ghost Rider!

X-MEN 2099 #30: The team welcomes the newest mutants on the block, the X-NATION gang, to Halo City! Pick up this prequel to X-NATION 2099#1 this month!

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, BLACKSTONE! WE CAN'T LET THEM GET *AWAY!*
BUT WE CAN LET THEM *RUN*, SQUEEZE. WE *CAN* LET THEM *EXHAUST* THEMSELVES.

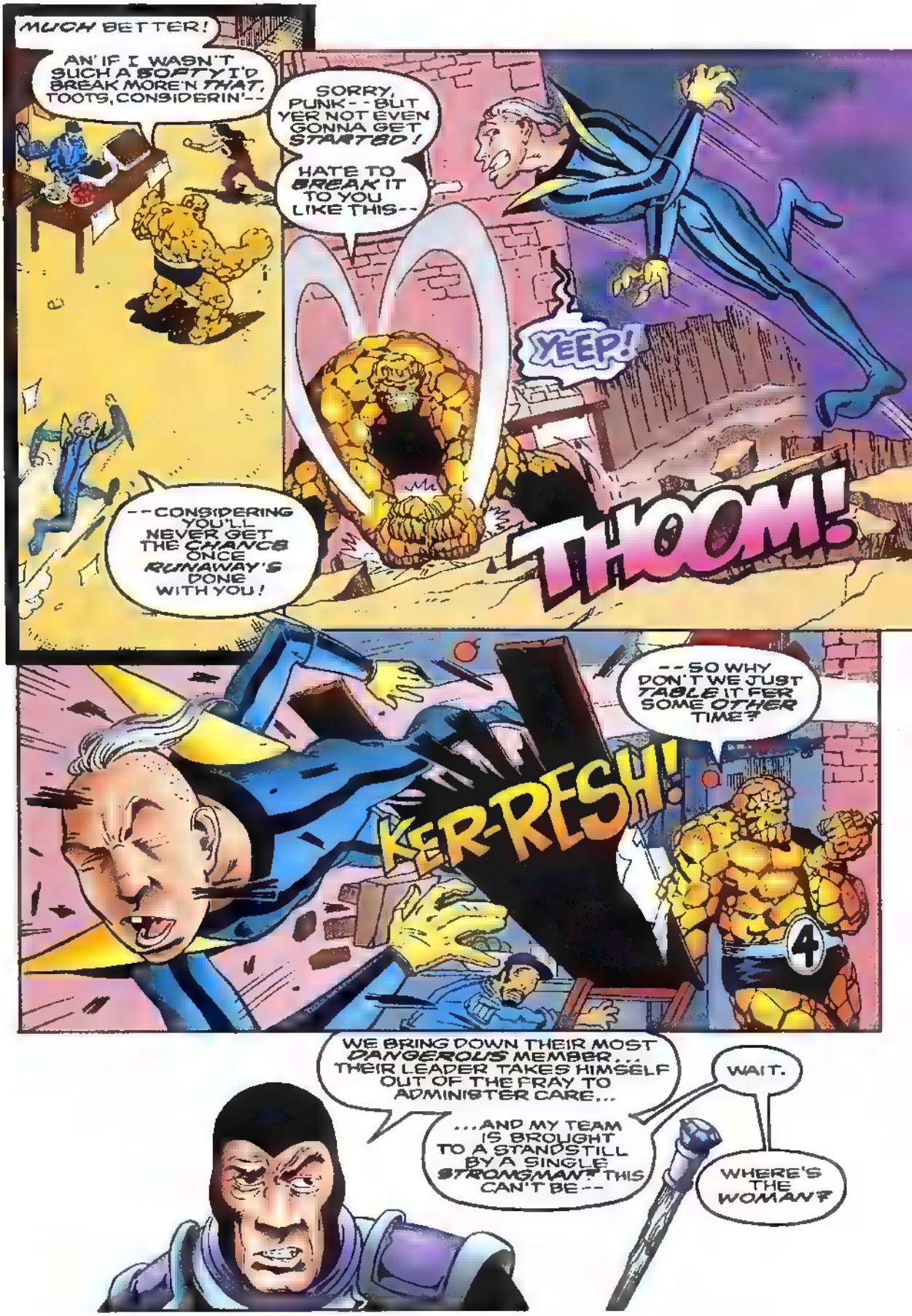

AFTER ALL, THERE ISN'T A PLACE THOSE FOUR CAN GO WHERE WE CAN'T *FIND* THEM!
Bip
NOW--*DO* TRY TO WAKE UP RUNAWAY...

I GOTTA BE *DREAMING!*
THIS CAN'T BE *WASHINGTON SQUARE!*
I'M AFRAID IT *MUST* BE, JOHNNY--WITH SOME SORT OF... *BARTER MARKET* IN OPERATION?
MOVING EVERYTHING FROM BLISS-CHIPS TO BABY-PARTS, REED. WON'T COST A CREDIT--MIGHT COST YOUR *SOUL*.
SHEESH! CAN'T BELIEVE YA GOT ME MISTY-EYED FER THE DAYS A DRUG-PUSHERS AN' DRIVE-BY SHOOTIN'S!
UGH! M-MR. RICHARDS... THANK YOU, BUT...
...BUT VALHALLA CALLS...
PLACE ME... BY THE ARCH APARTMENTS... WHERE MY C-CONGREGATION... CAN FIND ME...

DAN
TWICE
THANK YOU...
...THANK YOU...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
CONTINUE... FIGHTING...
YOU... ARE PROOF... M-MAN... CAN BECOME... IMMORTAL...
TH-THE ONLY... MIRACLE... I'VE EVER SEEN. YOU FOUR ARE... TRULY FAN... FANTAS--
COULD'VE FOOLED ME...
WE... WE'D BETTER GET MOVING-- PROBABLY HALF THE LOCALS HAVE REPORTED US BY NOW. JOHNNY'S FLAME IS A LITTLE HARD TO MISS...
YEAH--AN' I'M JUST A BIG, BRICK BILLBOARD SAYIN' "HERE'S THE F.F.!" COME AN' GET US!!
THERE'S THE F.F.!
LET'S GET 'EM!
V-CHOOM!
V-CHOOM!
V-CHOOM!

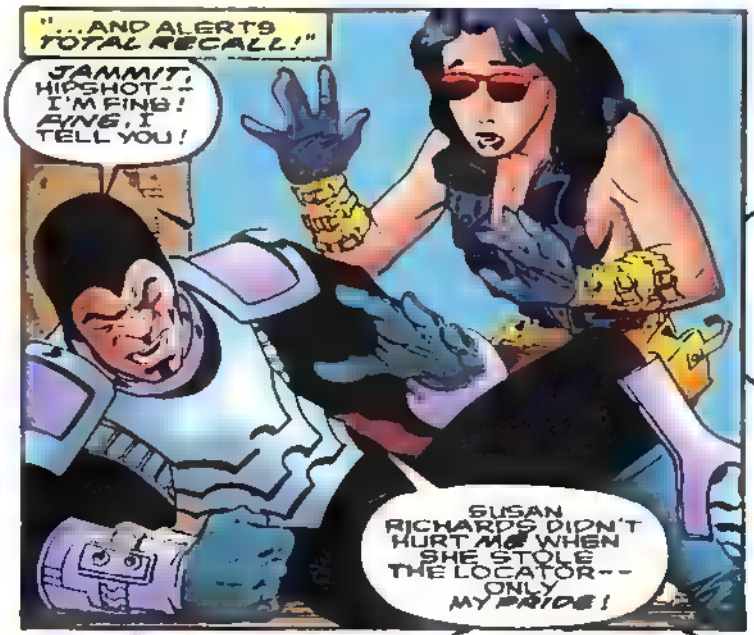
...HIPSHOT'S PSIONIC BULLETS DON'T MELT!
HOW BAD IS IT?
KA-CHOOM!
NNGH!
I'M HIT!
I'M... HIT?
NO!
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT SOONER..
DON'T MATTER, SUZIE-- ANYONE HURTS THE TORCH GETS IT BACK IN SPADES!
FUN TIME'S OVER--
-- IT'S GLOBBERIN' TIME!
WHOOM!
YOW!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! HOW DID THEY FIND US SO QUICKLY?
I KNOW, SUE--IT'S AS IF THEY COULD TRACK US...
JOHNNY--YOU'RE LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD. CAN YOU CAUTERIZE THE WOUND?
OH, S-SURE! SOUNDS... LIKE FUN...!
"TRACKING?" MAYBE...
TAKE CARE OF THE BOYS, CHIMERA--BE RIGHT BACK!
WELL, WELL, WELL...
KNEW I'D FIND MY DISAPPEARING ANGEL SOONER OR LATER...
...BUT TO FIND HER WITH CHIMERA!
RIVER STYX--YOU'RE ONE LUCKY DEVIL!
LUCKY FER YOU I WON'T HIT A LADY--
--VERY HARD!
THRAK
KA-CHOOM!
KA-CHOOM!
AS FER YOU, LITTLE MISS GUN-CRAZY--FER SOMEONE WHO DON'T TALK, YOU SURE MAKE A LOTTA NOISE.
AN IT'S BEGINNIN' TA GET ON MY NERVES!
KA-CHUNK!


MUCH BETTER!
AN' IF I WASN'T SUCH A SOFTY I'D BREAK MORE'N THAT, TOOTS, CONSIDERIN'--
SORRY, PUNK--BUT YER NOT EVEN GONNA GET STARTED!
HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU LIKE THIS--
YEEP!
THOOM!
--CONSIDERING YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE ONCE RUNAWAY'S DONE WITH YOU!
--SO WHY DON'T WE JUST TABLE IT FER SOME OTHER TIME?
KER-RESH!
WE BRING DOWN THEIR MOST DANGEROUS MEMBER... THEIR LEADER TAKES HIMSELF OUT OF THE FRAY TO ADMINISTER CARE...
...AND MY TEAM IS BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL BY A SINGLE STRONGMAN? THIS CAN'T BE--
WAIT.
WHERE'S THE WOMAN?

THOK!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BLACKSTONE...
...AND A FEW STEPS AHEAD!
NOW--SINCE YOU WERE REACHING FOR THE DEVICE ON YOUR WRIST WHEN YOU WONDERED WHERE I WAS...
...I'LL ASSUME IT'S SOME SORT OF LOCATOR.
I'D SAY I'M BORROWING IT--BUT I'M NOT!
I'M JUST TAKING IT!
TCHK!
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE--BET TOTAL RECALL CAN'T FOLLOW US NOW!
LET'S GET JOHNNY TO ONE OF THOSE "DOCS-IN-A-BOX" AND--
BUT THAT'S THE LAST PLACE THESE GLITCHES'LL SCAN.
REED...!
I THINK CHIMERA MAY BE RIGHT, SUE...
...BUT THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY!
FOLLOW ME!
IF I'M RIGHT... IF IT'S STILL THERE... IT COULD BE OUR LAST BEST CHANCE!

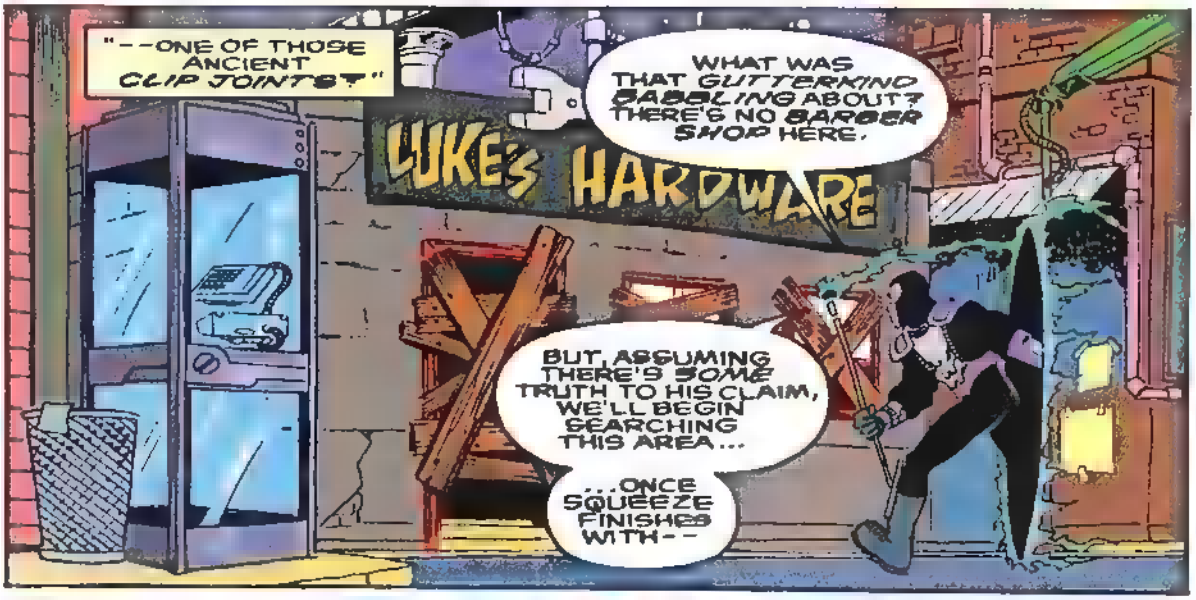
CAN'T BELIEVE OUR LUCK! HURRY!
AFTER ZIG-ZAGGIN' ALL OVER SO NO ONE FOLLOWS US-- NOW YA WANNA STOP FER A QUICK TRIM AN' MANICURE, STRETCHO?
NOT EXACTLY, OLD FRIEND-- BUT I WANT US OFF THE STREET BEFORE SOMEONE SEES US--

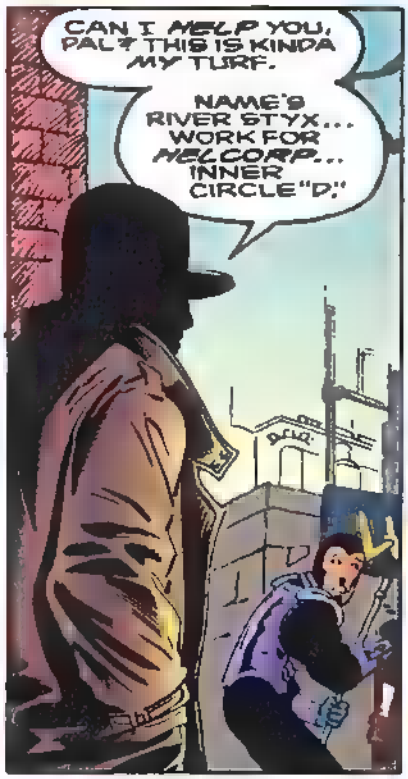

"...AND ALERT'S TOTAL RECALL!"
JAMMIT, HIPSHOT-- I'M FINE! AYNE, I TELL YOU!
SUSAN RICHARDS DIDN'T HURT ME WHEN SHE STOLE THE LOCATOR-- ONLY MY PRIDE!

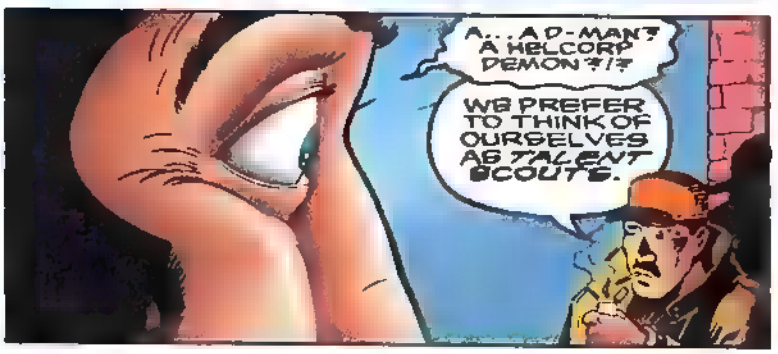
WELL, SHOCKIN' TELEPORT BACK TO STARK-FUJI AN' GRAB ANOTHER SO WE CAN GET BACK TO BIZ!

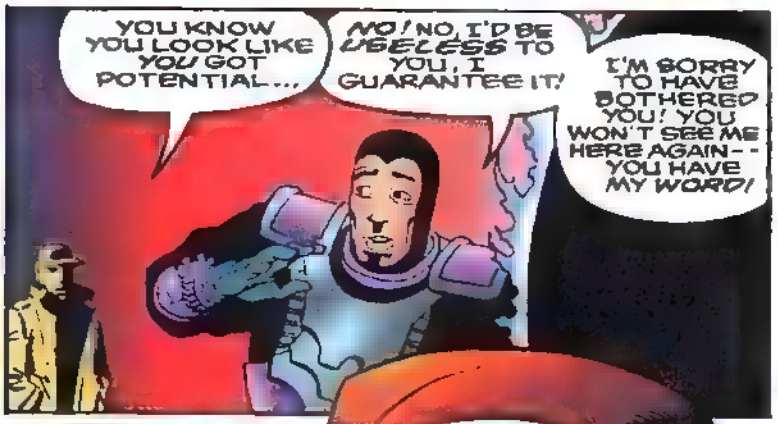
THAT WOULD HARDLY ENHANCE OUR PRO-REP RATING, SQUEEZE.
NOW WE MUST FIND THESE FANTASTIC FUGITIVES ON OUR OWN.
YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT ORANGE ROCK-GUY?
I SEEN HIM... MAYBE.

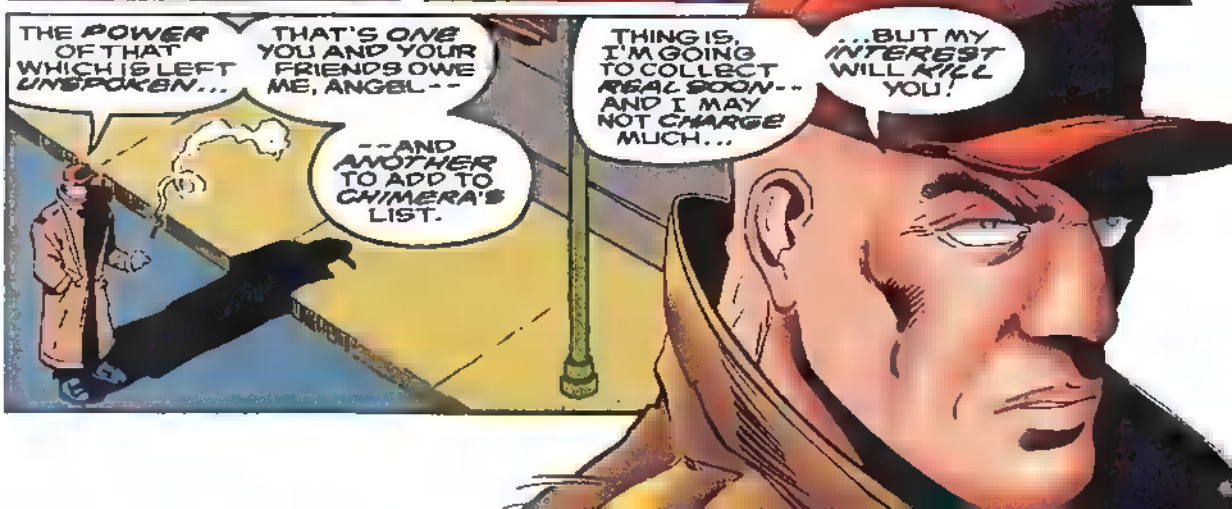
THEN I HOPE YOUR MEMORY COMES INTO FAST FOCUS, DOWNTOWNER...
...OR MY ASSOCIATE WILL PUT THE SQUEEZE ON YOU--NO "MAYBE" ABOUT IT!
UH... UH... IT'S, UH, ACROSS TOWN... Y'KNOW...

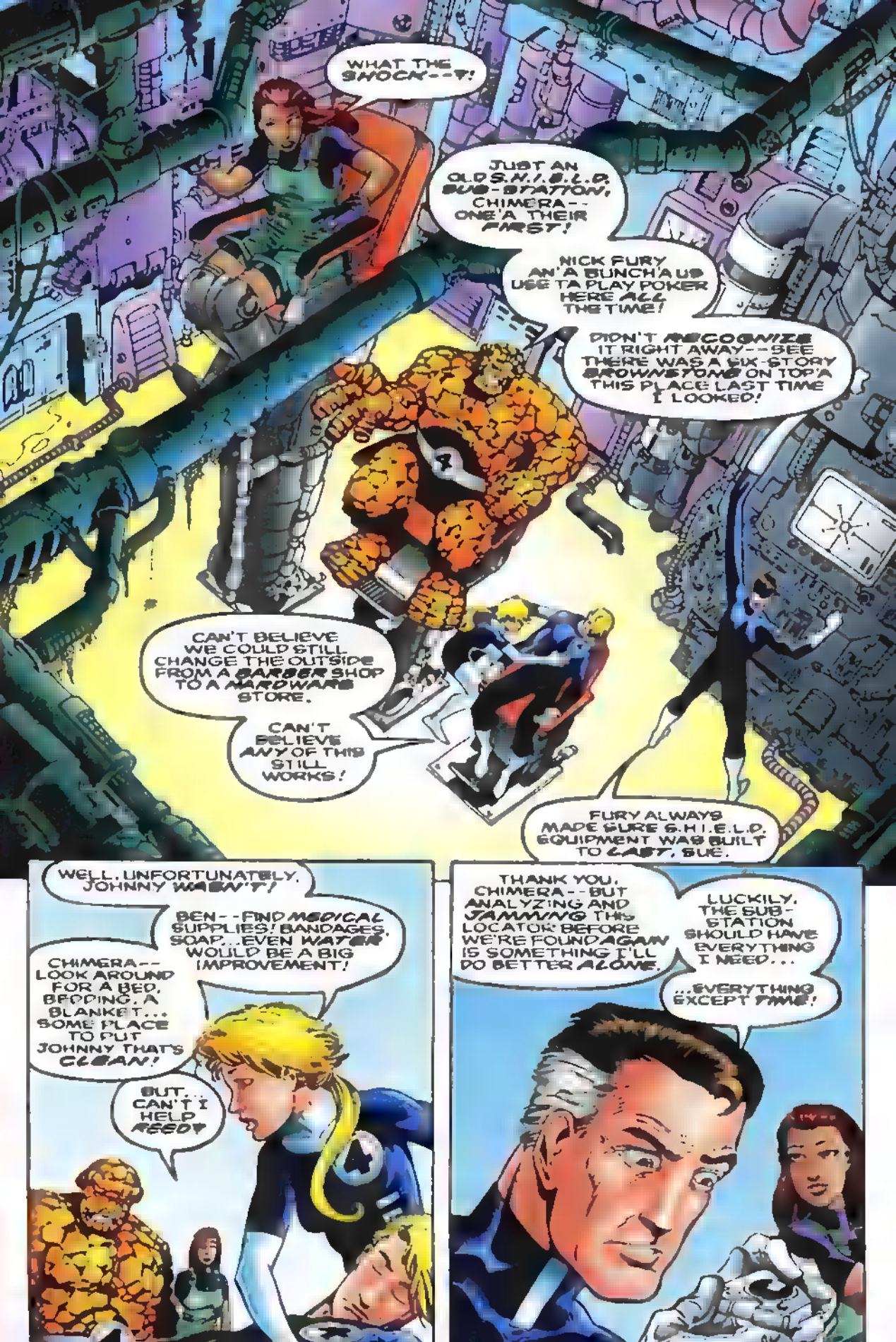

"--ONE OF THOSE ANCIENT CLIP JOINTS?"
LUKE'S HARDWARE
WHAT WAS THAT GUTTERKIND BABBLING ABOUT? THERE'S NO BARBER SHOP HERE.
BUT, ASSUMING THERE'S SOME TRUTH TO HIS CLAIM, WE'LL BEGIN SEARCHING THIS AREA...
...ONCE SQUEEZE FINISHES WITH--

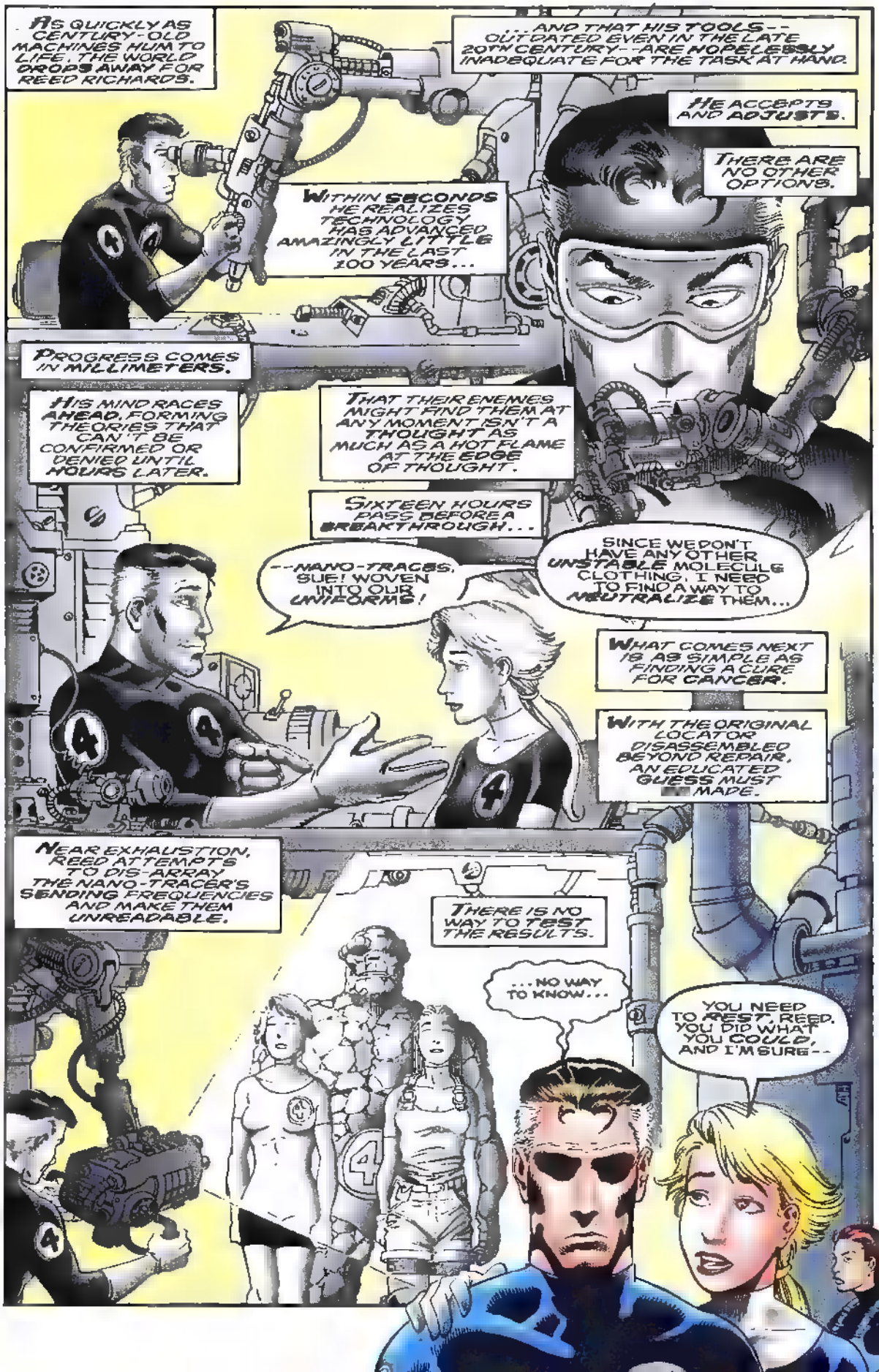

CAN I HELP YOU, PAL? THIS IS KINDA MY TURF.
NAME'S RIVER STYX... WORK FOR HELCORP... INNER CIRCLE "D."


A...AD-MAN? A HELCORP DEMON?!?
WE PREFER TO THINK OF OURSELVES AS TALENT SCOUTS.

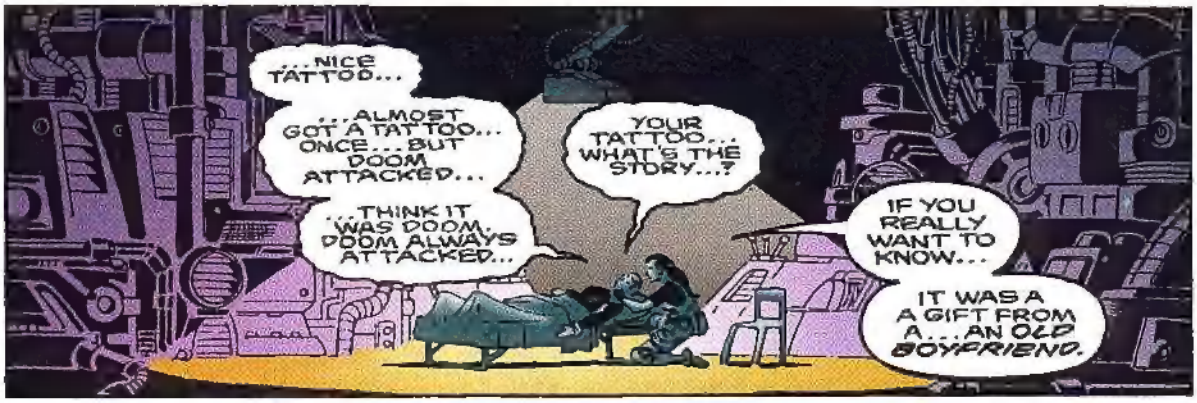

YOU KNOW YOU LOOK LIKE YOU GOT POTENTIAL...
NO! NO, I'D BE USELESS TO YOU, I GUARANTEE IT!
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU! YOU WON'T SEE ME HERE AGAIN-- YOU HAVE MY WORD!


THE POWER OF THAT WHICH IS LEFT UNSPOKEN...
THAT'S ONE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS OWE ME, ANGEL--
--AND ANOTHER TO ADD TO CHIMERA'S LIST.
THING IS, I'M GOING TO COLLECT REAL SOON-- AND I MAY NOT CHARGE MUCH...
...BUT MY INTEREST WILL KILL YOU!


WHAT THE SHOCK--?!
JUST AN OLD S.H.I.E.L.D. SUB-STATION, CHIMERA--ONE'A THEIR FIRST!
NICK FURY AN'A BUNCH'A US USE TA PLAY POKER HERE ALL THE TIME!
DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT RIGHT AWAY--SEE THERE WAS A SIX-STORY BROWNSTONE ON TOP'A THIS PLACE LAST TIME I LOOKED!
CAN'T BELIEVE WE COULD STILL CHANGE THE OUTSIDE FROM A BARBER SHOP TO A HARDWARE STORE.
CAN'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS STILL WORKS!
FURY ALWAYS MADE SURE S.H.I.E.L.D. EQUIPMENT WAS BUILT TO LAST, SUE.
WELL, UNFORTUNATELY, JOHNNY WASN'T!
BEN--FIND MEDICAL SUPPLIES! BANDAGES, SOAP...EVEN WATER WOULD BE A BIG IMPROVEMENT!
CHIMERA--LOOK AROUND FOR A BED, BEDDING, A BLANKET... SOME PLACE TO PUT JOHNNY THAT'S CLEAN!
BUT, CAN'T I HELP NEED?
THANK YOU, CHIMERA--BUT ANALYZING AND JAMMING THIS LOCATOR BEFORE WE'RE FOUND AGAIN IS SOMETHING I'LL DO BETTER ALONE.
LUCKILY, THE SUB-STATION SHOULD HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED...
...EVERYTHING EXCEPT TIME!


AS QUICKLY AS CENTURY-OLD MACHINES HUM TO LIFE, THE WORLD DROPS AWAY FOR REED RICHARDS.
...AND THAT HIS TOOLS--OUTDATED EVEN IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY--ARE HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE FOR THE TASK AT HAND.
HE ACCEPTS AND ADJUSTS.
THERE ARE NO OTHER OPTIONS.
WITHIN SECONDS HE REALIZES TECHNOLOGY HAS ADVANCED AMAZINGLY LITTLE IN THE LAST 100 YEARS...
PROGRESS COMES IN MILLIMETERS.
HIS MIND RACES AHEAD, FORMING THEORIES THAT CAN'T BE CONFIRMED OR DENIED UNTIL HOURS LATER.
THAT THEIR ENEMES MIGHT FIND THEM AT ANY MOMENT ISN'T A THOUGHT AS MUCH AS A HOT FLAME AT THE EDGE OF THOUGHT.
SIXTEEN HOURS PASS BEFORE A BREAKTHROUGH...
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER UNSTABLE MOLECULE CLOTHING, I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO NEUTRALIZE THEM...
--NANO-TRACERS, SUE! WOVEN INTO OUR UNIFORMS!
WHAT COMES NEXT IS AS SIMPLE AS FINDING A CURE FOR CANCER.
WITH THE ORIGINAL LOCATOR DISASSEMBLED BEYOND REPAIR, AN EDUCATED GUESS MUST [redacted] MADE.
NEAR EXHAUSTION, REED ATTEMPTS TO DIS-ARRAY THE NANO-TRACER'S SENDING FREQUENCIES AND MAKE THEM UNREADABLE.
THERE IS NO WAY TO TEST THE RESULTS.
...NO WAY TO KNOW...
YOU NEED TO REST, REED. YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD, AND I'M SURE--

THE NANO-TRACERS HAVE GONE DEAD, HIKARU-SAMA.
IN ADDITION, TOTAL RECALL ADMITS LOSING THEIR LOCATOR, AND DEMANDS AN OUTRAGEOUS AMOUNT TO CONTINUE THEIR OPERATION.
THEY ARE FANTASTIC, ARE THEY NOT, SHUDO?
FANTASTICALLY INEPT, PERHAPS--
NO, SHUDO-- OUR FOUR ESCAPED SUBJECTS,
PAY TOTAL RECALL A KILL FEE. STARK-FUJIKAWA NO LONGER REQUIRES THEIR SERVICES.
BUT... WHAT OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR? THINK OF THE MONEY SPENT DEVELOPING--
AND THINK OF THE MONEY SAVED BY LETTING AN ANGERED S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THORITE COMMUNITY HUNT THEM FOR FREE.
WE SHALL NOT BE PART OF THE FORCES MARSHALLING AGAINST THEM, SHUDO.
AS THEIR OPTIONS DWINDLE, THEY WILL SEEK US OUT AS THE LESSER OF EVILS.
AND AT THAT TIME, I MAY WELL OFFER THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
...A LAST REFUGE!

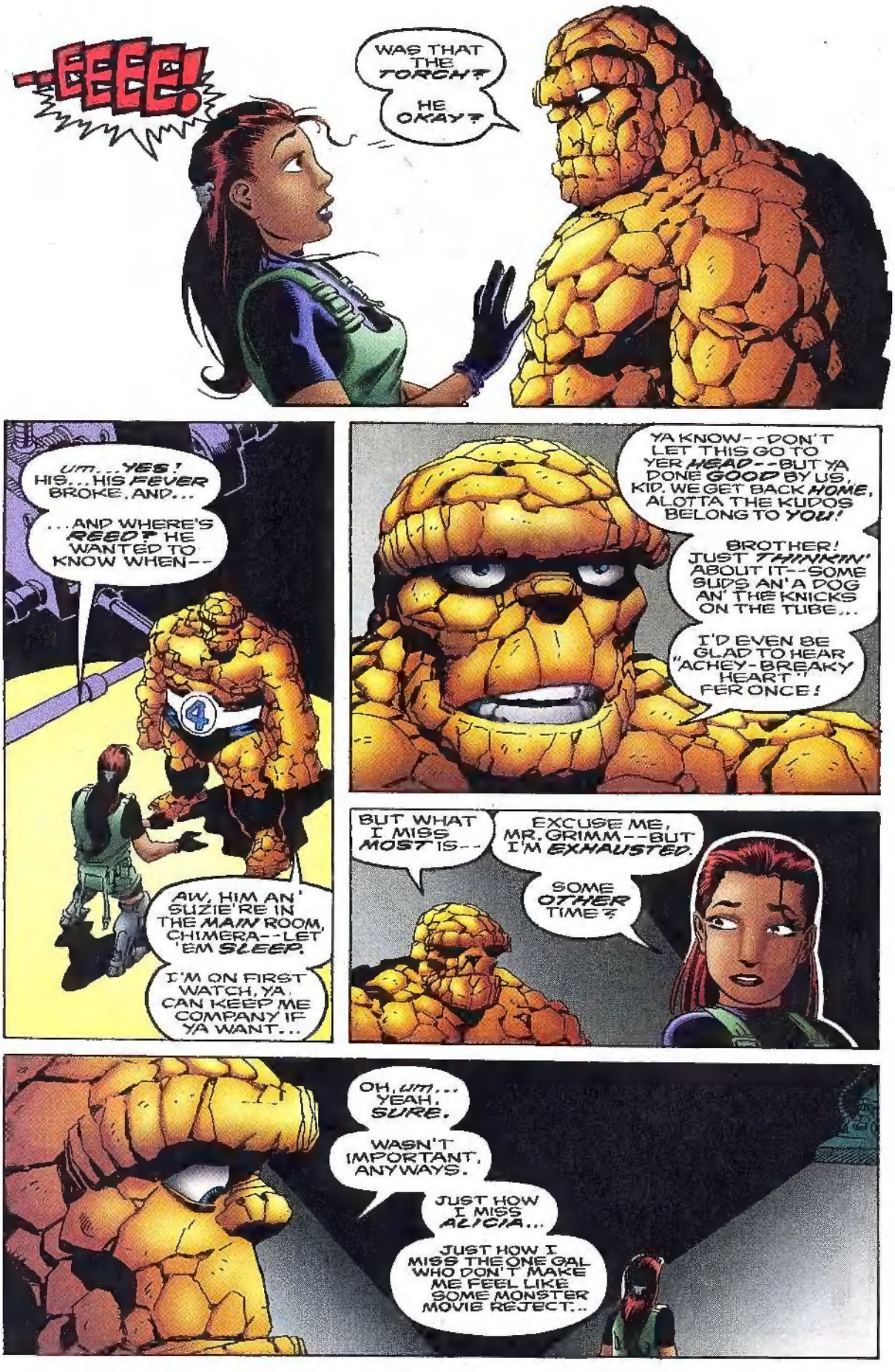

...NICE TATTOO...
...ALMOST GOT A TATTOO... ONCE... BUT DOOM ATTACKED...
...THINK IT WAS DOOM. DOOM ALWAYS ATTACKED...
YOUR TATTOO... WHAT'S THE STORY...?
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW...
IT WAS A A GIFT FROM A... AN OLD BOYFRIEND.

GAVE ME THIS SCRAP ABOUT THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE BEING AT THE END OF THE PHOTON ROAD...
...BUT IT WAS JUST A DEAD END FOR HIM... AND THE NEGATIVE ZONE FOR ME.
NICE STORY, huh?

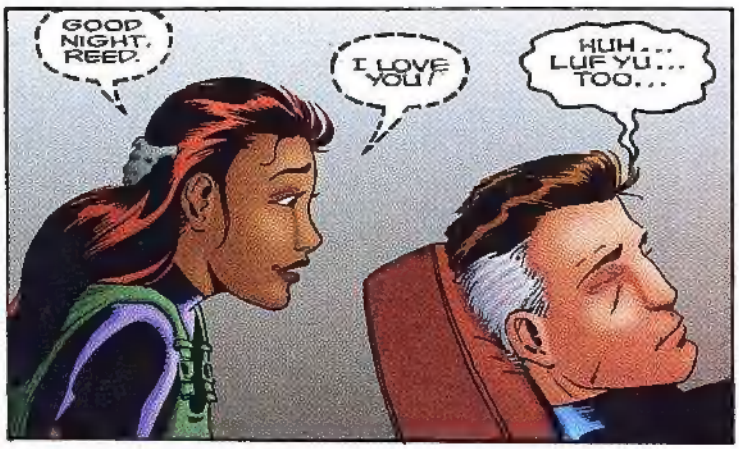
...SO YOU... YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND, huh?
...WELL, Y'KNOW... I KIND'A LIKE YOU...
...AND I KNOW YOU KIND'A LIKE...

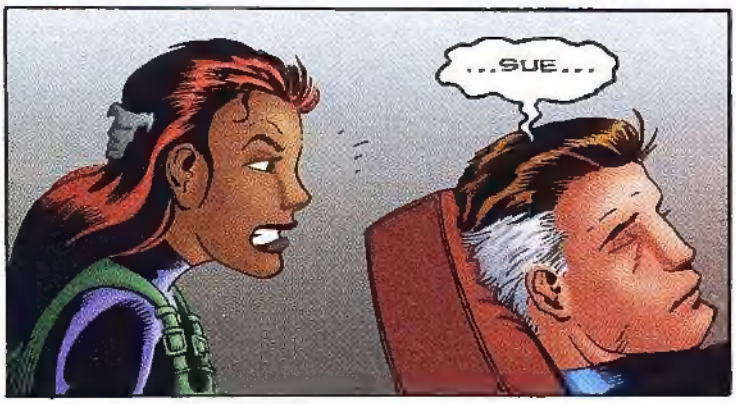
GEE.
SORRY, JOHNNY.
--MMGH!
YANK!

DIDN'T KNOW THAT EXTRA PAIN WOULD MAKE YOU PASS OUT...
...BUT THEN YOU NEED YOUR REST, DON'T YOU?
AND I CERTAINLY WANT YOU TO REST IN PEACE, JOHN--


--EEEE!
WAS THAT THE TORCH?
HE OKAY?
UM...YES! HIS...HIS FEVER BROKE, AND...
...AND WHERE'S REED? HE WANTED TO KNOW WHEN--
AW, HIM AN' SUZIE'RE IN THE MAIN ROOM, CHIMERA--LET 'EM SLEEP.
I'M ON FIRST WATCH, YA CAN KEEP ME COMPANY IF YA WANT...
YA KNOW--DON'T LET THIS GO TO YER HEAD--BUT YA DONE GOOD BY US, KID. WE GET BACK HOME, ALOTTA THE KUDOS BELONG TO YOU!
BROTHER! JUST THINKIN' ABOUT IT--SOME SUDS AN' A DOG AN' THE KNICKS ON THE TUBE...
I'D EVEN BE GLAD TO HEAR "ACHEY-BREAKY HEART" FER ONCE!
BUT WHAT I MISS MOST IS--
EXCUSE ME, MR. GRIMM--BUT I'M EXHAUSTED.
SOME OTHER TIME?
OH, UM,.. YEAH. SURE.
WASN'T IMPORTANT, ANYWAYS.
JUST HOW I MISS ALICIA...
JUST HOW I MISS THE ONE GAL WHO DON'T MAKE ME FEEL LIKE SOME MONSTER MOVIE REJECT...

REED...?


GOOD NIGHT, REED.
I LOVE YOU!
HUH... LUF YU... TOO...


...SUE...

NO! HE'S MINE!
HE SHOULD BE MINE!
HE WILL BE MINE!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS--

BANG!

--GET SOME AMMUNITION!
CONTINUED!

FANTASTIC FORUM

Joey Cavalieri
Editor
Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

Out Of My Head

Unsung heroes from issue #1: Jim Novak designed our book's logo, and Cindy Emmert designed the special preview section, spotlighting X-NATION 2099. By the by, if you haven't seen our latest addition to the mutant canon, procrastination only hurts you, the hesitant Marvelite. Dig?

Also, big hello to Francesco Maio and Luca Poli, of Marvel Italia, who publish our 2099 stuff there! This is my way of saying "thanks" for the copy of ROMITA, their special art book dedicated to the work of both John Romita Sr. and Jr. Two generations of comics genius. I got mine autographed by Romita the Elder, a perk of working here. Since said perks tend to err on the side of parsimony, I'm grateful for the winning inscription.

Ah, what else can I complain about? Didja notice that DOOM 2099 made THE BEST OF MARVEL trade paperback collection for the second consecutive year? Hah? Why aren't you buying extra copies of that mag to press into the hands of neophytes and non-believers? Even heretics deserve intellectual entertainment!

Later!

Dear Lia and Joey,

I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of the newest 2099 book Fantastic Four 2099. I must admit I have never really followed the FF that much but I do know about some of their history. Especially about the constant battles between them and Doom. I think this will be one of 2099's greatest moments when the FF and Doom come face to face for the first time in the year 2099. I mean what are the odds that Doom got stuck in exactly the same year and place they do. Anyway I know this will be one of the best 2099 books out there,and you definitly can't go wrong with the creative team you've got lined up.

Now for my short comments on 2099 Genesis.

I absolutely loved it! But if this Dust guy ISN'T Cable then who is he. This is something that has to be explored. As for the new Daredevil I think you've got another winner on your hands, and I would love to see him in his own book. The Futureverse is looking better all the time, all the people involved in 2099 deserve a big round of applause for making 2099 some of the best books out there. Now bring on The Future World's Greatest Comic.

Joey Guerra
Aguerra601@aol.com

Thanks for writing in, Joey. Now that we've got three issues of FF 2099 under our belt, write back and let us know how we're doing. And thanks for the feedback on 2099 GENESIS. Dash is Dust, a new character to 2099 and one who has indeed done and seen it all. As for Daredevil, we'd really like to see this character get off the ground; anyone else?

Lia:

Although I'm not a regular poster to the 2099 board, I am a regular lurker who enjoys reading the comments of the others online. Usually, just when I think of something to post, one of the others manages to put my thoughts into their post, and in a much more elegant and concise way than I could have! But, your call for letters to FF 2099 has spurred me into action, so here goes...

The 2099 line of comics is currently the most consistent line being published today, in terms of both quality and cohesiveness. There is an actual "feel" to all the books, and in an age of escalating prices, this has kept me buying the line. Now comes perhaps the boldest move in the history of the 2099 Universe since its inception: The taking of Marvel's first "real" superheroes, and injecting them into the future. Will it work? Hey, who would have thought the whole 2099 thing would have worked in the first place? Personally, I don't see how you can take the original FF and place them into the future without screwing up the entire Marvel Universe. I tend to think that the four workers from "GENESIS" will somehow become the new FF. I have no idea whether or not this will work, no matter which way the stories go, but you know what? I can't wait to find out! I'm very excited about the whole thing, and next week can't come fast enough. Good luck with the whole 2099 Universe, and thank you for your time.

Oh, yeah, almost forgot...X-NATION looks great! For once, I'm actually looking forward to another X-book! Good Luck!

JL
GJonL@aol.com

It's always good to hear a new voice JL, so don't be shy and post your messages! We're glad you're a fan of our line, we're pretty partial to it and we hope that FF 2099 becomes a regular book on your reading list.

As for the team itself, only time will tell who they are and how they arrived in the future. After three issues, got any better guesses? And X-Nation should be on the stands as you read this, so write us there as well and let us know how we're doing!

Next Issue

Karl, Matt and Al return as the FF battle Spider-Man? Has Miguel O'Hara really sold out as head of Alchemax? Be here in thirty days!